

REMARKS

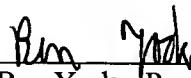
The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Examiner states that the Ru layer does not provide enablement for a layer of anti-ferromagnetic material. The Applicant has amended the claims to recite an anti-ferromagnetic coupling material. The Applicant submits that the Ru layer provides enablement for this claim language. The Applicant therefore submits that the claims now comply with the first paragraph of §112.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Do. The Examiner rejected claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Do in view of Bian. The Examiner has stated that the recitation of chromium diffusing into the magnetic layer is a method limitation that does not provide patentable distinction to the apparatus claims. The Applicant has amended the claims to recite chromium that is diffused into the top magnetic layer. The claims therefore recite a resultant product that includes a top layer of magnetic material with chromium diffused therein. Neither Do nor Bian disclose a disk with a top magnetic layer of chromium diffused therein. For this reason the Applicant submits that these references do not render unpatentable the pending claims of the above entitled patent application.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-10 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

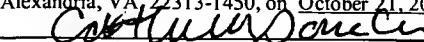
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the U.S. Mail, First Class, addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 21, 2004.

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Catherine M. Sanders

Date